

## Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO  
SUBJECT: WORK OF REGIONAL EXPERTS GROUPS

REF: (A) STATE 3036, (B) USNATO 0154, (C) STATE 8122

1. IN JANUARY 15 POLADS DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL EXPERTS GROUPS MEETINGS AND REPORTS, MORST REPRESENTATIVES FAVORED: (A) MAINTAINING PRACTICE OF SUBMITTING NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN ADVANCE OF MEETINGS (INTERANAIONAL STAFF NOT TO PREPARE ANY FIRST DRAFT REPORT WITHOUT REFERENCE TO SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS); (B) KEEPING MEDITERRANEAN REPORT SEPARATE BUT AMALGAMATING ME AND MAGHREB REPORTS (WHILE DULY NOTING US CONDITION AS TO SEQUENCE); (C) STREAMLINING WORK THROUGH EARLIER SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND PREPARATION OF MORE SUCCINT REPORTS CENTERED ON IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE; (D) APPROVAL BY EXPERTS OF REPORTS AS LAST ORDER OF BUSINESS AT REGIONAL MEETINGS, RATHER THAN TO ALLOWING CHAIRMAN TO ISSUE REPORTS AFTER MEETINGS ON HIS OWN RESPONSIBILITY; (E) AS A PILOT PROJECT, THREE-DAY MEETINGS FOR TWO SELECTED GEOGRAPHIC AREAS, LATIN AMERICA AND THE FAR EAST; (F) IS PREPARATION OF FIRST DRAFT OF LA REPORT, WITH EXPERTS PREPARING FIRST DRAFT OF FE REPORT.

2. TURKISH AND DANISH REPS DID NOT FAVOR IS PREPARATION OF ANY FIRST DRAFT REPORT, BUT AGREED TO SEEK FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.  
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UK REP THOUGHT LONDON WOULD AGREE TO DROP IDEAS OF IS PREPARING ALL FIRST DRAFTS AND AMALGAMATION OF MED REPORT WITH THOSE ON ME AND MAGHREB.

3. AS TO PILOT PROJECT AREAS, REGIONAL EXPERTS GROUPS CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED LA AND FE. US REP ARGUED FOR LA AND AFRICA SOUTH OF SAHARA PER INSTRUCTIONS, CITING PARTICULARLY IMPORTANCE TO ALLIANCE OF CHINA AND JAPAN. HE RECEIVED SOME SUPPORT IN PERSONAL BASIS FROM UK AND CANADIAN REPS. HOWEVER, PORTUGUESE AND ITALIAN REPS, WITH SUPPORT FROM FRENCH AND BELGIAN REPS, HELD OUT STRONGLY FOR FE AS AGAINST AF FOR PILOT PROJECT.

4. COMMENT: WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT AGREE TO FE VICE AF MEETING AND REPORT AS ONE OF THE TWO PILOT PROJECTS, AND AGREE THAT IS SHOULD PREPARE FIRST DRAFT OF LA REPT. PORTUGAL AND ITALY ARE UNLIKELY TO BUDGET FROM THEIR POSITIONS, WHILE US IS ON THE WAY TO ACHIEVING MOST OF ITS POINTS AS REFLECTED PARA 1 ABOVE. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE POLADS SUPPORT FOR NORWEGIAN PLEA FOR FLEXIBILITY WHEN COMMITTEE ATTEMPTS TO REACH FINAL AGREEMENT JANUARY 22, AND US HOLD-OUT FOR AF VICE FE IS LIKELY ONLY TO GAIN ADDITIONAL SYMPATHETIC SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE, ITALIAN, FRENCH AND BELGIAN POSITIONS. ANYWAY, WE THINK KEY TO QUALITY OF DISCUSSINS AND REPOR\*S IS NOT TIME SPENT DRAFTING OR WHO PREPARES FIRST DRAFT, BUT RATHER QUALITY OF NATIONAL WRITTEN AND ORAL CONTRIBUTIONS. RUMSFELD

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